

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were examined. By present amendment, claim 23 was amended and claim 26 was cancelled. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-25 will be pending in the application. Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the telephone interview conducted on February 20, 2004. In the interview, Applicant and the Examiner came to an agreement as to allowance of claims 23-25.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-22 and 26 are deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is not supported by either a credible asserted utility or a well established utility.

As follows, Applicant has amendment claim 23 to replace "preventing" with "inhibiting." Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 23-25 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Noted above, Applicant has amended to claim 23 to change "preventing" to "inhibiting." Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the above-identified application are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the present application is found by the Examiner not to be in condition for allowance, then the Applicants hereby request a telephone or personal interview to facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters. Applicants' attorney may be contacted by telephone at the number indicated below to schedule such an interview.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our deposit account #19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,
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